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Office of the Mayor

August 27, 2009

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support Letter for Recovery Act TIGER Grant Application

Dear TIGER Grant Review Committee:

The City of Boise is submitting this letter in support of the Valley Regional Transit East/West Commute Corridors Alternative Transportation Package project. This comprehensive project will provide the infrastructure and capital improvements needed to meet current transit demands in our region and position our transit service to handle future growth. The service additions will test demand along current gaps in our east/west commute corridors and the high capacity corridor study will lay the ground work for a system to meet future needs.

The Treasure Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. The growth pattern has a majority of the housing expansion in the neighborhoods and cities west of Boise, the employment center. This results in a significant east/west daily commute along limited roadway corridors. In addition to this growing traffic problem, the Treasure Valley is boarding on air quality non-attainment.

ARRA funding of these capital and service projects will allow the City of Boise and the other participating jurisdictions in our region to save and pool local matching funds to add new service and increase frequencies on existing service in the future. Without these ARRA funds, it would take nearly 10 years for our region to complete these projects and there would be very limited resources to increase service.

The City of Boise fully supports this project because it meets the Recovery Act objectives of creating immediate job growth and economic stimulation and will position our region to grow well into the future. We thank you for considering this project for funding.

Sincerely,

David H. Bieter
Mayor

cc: Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit
Matt Stoll, COMPASS